



Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

**Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary  
Advisory Council Meeting Agenda  
Bodega Marine Lab  
December 6th, 2006**

**SANCTUARY ADVISORY  
COUNCIL**

**MEMBERS:**

Carol Keiper  
*Research*

Lance Morgan  
*Conservation*

Chuck Wise  
*Maritime Activity*

Tom Lambert  
*Community-at-Large Sonoma*

Joe Smith  
*Community-at-Large Marin*

Doreen Gurrola  
*Education*

Steve Edmondson  
*National Marine Fisheries Service*

Captain David Swatland  
*U.S. Coast Guard*

Daniel Cohen  
*Research Alternate*

Todd Steiner  
*Conservation Alternate*

Josh Churchman  
*Maritime Activity Alternate*

Michael Mery  
*Community-at-Large Marin Alternate*

Duffy Ross  
*Education Alternate*

**Time**

9:30-9:40

9:40-9:50

9:50-10:30

10:30-11:00

11:00-11:15

11:15-11:35

11:35-11:45

11:45-12:00

12:00-12:45

12:45 – 1:30

1:30-2:15

2:15-2:45

2:45-3:00

3:00-3:15

**Topics and Objectives**

**Welcome, Roll Call, Review Agenda** -Tom Lambert

**Review Last Meeting's Minutes (September 26th)**  
-Tom Lambert

**Manager's Report**  
- Dan Howard  
(Marine Debris Project, Fulmar Dedication, Budget Update, Dispersants Update, CBOMP Summary, Education Report, Animation Data of CB)

**Council Member Reports**  
-Tom Lambert

**Break**

**Coast Guard Training Area Update**  
-Captain David Swatland

**Questions for Captain Swatland**

**Public Comment Period**

**Management Plan Update and Recording of SAC Member Comments** -Tom Lambert, Dan Howard

**Lunch**

**Management Plan Update and Recording of SAC Member Comments** -Tom Lambert, Dan Howard

**Schedule all 2007 Meeting Dates, Potential Subjects and Goals for 2007** -Tom Lambert

**Protocols for Development of SAC Resolutions** - Tom Lambert

**Public Comment Period**

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*Materials Distributed –*

- December 6<sup>th</sup> Agenda
- September 26<sup>th</sup> Minutes
- Cordell Bank Research Priorities and Goals sheet

**Meeting Commenced at 9:40 a.m.**

**Roll -**

Council Members Present:

Tom Lambert  
Lance Morgan  
Doreen Gurrola  
Carol Keiper  
Duffy Ross  
Chuck Wise  
Captain David Swatland  
Dan Cohen  
Joe Smith

Council Members Absent:

Josh Churchman  
Todd Steiner

Voting Alternates:

None

Staff Present:

Dan Howard  
Rowena Forest  
Lisa Etherington  
Jennifer Stock

**Roll call, Review Agenda – Tom Lambert**

Agenda – Tom Lambert asked Council members to give a tally of prepared comments they will submit today for the Management Plan Review portion of the agenda.

Comments = 37 total

(Duffy=14, Tom=2, Dan Cohen=2.5, Doreen=13, Carol=6)

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**Review Last Meeting's Minutes**

*Motion*

*Lance Morgan moved to accept 9-26-06 SAC minutes as amended*

*Doreen Gurrola seconds*

*All in favor*

**Manager's Report – Dan Howard**

Dan commented that there was no action by NMFS this year to allow access to the sea turtle conservation zone by drift gillnet fishery during the annual time/area closure. Some discussion followed regarding the biology and seasonal patterns of the leatherback turtle in CA.

Dan announced that John Hildebrand is starting a project with partners (Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, National Marine Fisheries Service, SCRIPPS Institute of Oceanography, and others) in the Southern California bight to discuss long-term monitoring of sound in the ocean and how sound may be effecting the distribution and behavior of marine mammals in the area.

Budget Update – looks like we will be in a continuing resolution until mid-February. This means we will operate with the same budget as last year but our spending is very restricted until we know what our budget will be.

Dispersants Update – were hoping to secure funding to put on a workshop that would look at the affects of dispersants on water column organisms – OSPR did not fund our proposal so I will be looking to form a small working group of our SAC to develop a decision matrix for when we would consider using dispersants.

Boundary Expansion bill has been introduced by Senator Boxer so we may see some movement with that when the new Congress convenes in Feb.

Lance Morgan commented that the Magnusen/Stevens Act will be re-worked before re-introduction of this Bill.

As part of the Manager's Report, Lisa Etherington reviewed Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) research operations, and reviewed the following topics:

Bathymetric Survey Techniques

Marine Debris on the Bank – how it's distributed, debris gear type, and how to remove. Lisa discussed how debris was surveyed, and how gear removal will be tested.

Carol asked if there are any other similar projects and methods to base the CBNMS project on. Lisa explained that all the work up to now has been in shallow water and that our project will be to remove gear in much deeper water.

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Lance asked if there is a technique for prioritizing which type of gear to remove. Lisa explained the method of prioritizing based on habitat disturbance, and destructive nature of debris type.

Lisa discussed recent oceanic conditions and decrease in productivity, and impact on Blue Whale and Cassin's Auklet populations. There was discussion around the table regarding fluctuations in animal and bird population observances.

Lisa outlined on a map of the Bank, the area where a research buoy will be placed. The desired area is at the north end of the Bank. Criteria for placing the buoy has to do with observance of regions already covered by other research buoys. Lisa also gave a summary of 2006 CBOMP activities.

Jennifer Stock, Education Report –

Jenny outlined the portion of her time working on regional projects

Ocean Currents radio show on KWMR

Dan commented that this is an excellent opportunity for SAC members to make announcements, etc.. Ocean Currents airs once a month, and the next show is December 18<sup>th</sup>

Exhibits – working with National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) to allocate funds to work with the Oakland Museum to develop a Cordell Bank exhibit at the museum.

OceanFest was in October at Crissy Field. Teachers and students from last year's ROV workshop were there and demonstrated their ROV's

Signals of Spring Grant Program

Tom thanked Captain Swatland for attending the meeting, and asked each Council member give a brief personal introduction to him. Captain Swatland then introduced himself and the USCG operations in the Bay Area - and his position on all three Bay Area Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils.

**Council Member Reports – Tom Lambert**

Tom Lambert – announced the Regional SAC Chairs meeting will be February 14<sup>th</sup> in Half Moon Bay. Tom reviewed the round-table discussion meeting that took place in San Diego between Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) and regional SAC Chairs and Sanctuary managers. Tom explained the structure and function of the PFMC. Tom felt it was a productive meeting and important to establish a relationship between the Sanctuaries and Fisheries Councils. It was made clear that the PFMC will continue to be the regulatory body for fisheries, not the Sanctuaries – but it's important to work together on these issues. Tom and Dan Howard commented that it was impressive that all PFMC members were present for this meeting (14 members). Lance pointed out that there is still gray area between regulating fisheries and species protection within the Sanctuaries.

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Doreen Gurrola – Doreen reported on the Marine Science Discovery Program run through The Marine Mammal Center. A funded program offered to low-income high school students. In this program, classes participate in several classroom visits and field trips. One field trip is on the research vessel the White Holly. A new station has been added to this field trip, which covers submersible work done on Cordell Bank. Students learn about the submersible on board and review an underwater video from the Cordell cruises. Doreen also summarized the American Cetacean Society conference which took place in San Diego this fall. Doreen shared several publications for the public put out by the Sanctuary Program, and National Park Service.

Lance Morgan – Discussed Sanctuary review plan called Making Waves. Lance gave a presentation about Cordell Bank, and other presentations were given by others in the marine biology community. Lance announced that the San Francisco Ocean Film Festival is January 19<sup>th</sup>, at Fort Mason, and the American Advancement of Science Meeting will be held in San Francisco February 16-19, 2007. Agenda and information for this is listed at AAAS.org

Chuck Wise – Chuck discussed this year's crab season including how an open pot limit has affected this fishery, and how to possibly regulate it better to benefit local fishermen and maintain crab populations. Chuck explained how the State of California Governor's office responded to regulating the limits, and vetoed pot limits for Northern California. Pacific Seafood Corporation was backing this veto.

**Break**

**Coast Guard Training Area Update – Captain David Swatland**

Slides –

Sector San Francisco U.S. Coast Guard WTA Operations

Since 9/11 there have been increased Homeland Security requirements on USCG to train with weapons

Captain Swatland described where offshore training areas are located

100 people are kept qualified on vessel-mounted weapons

M240 Machine Gun Qualification Procedures

Course of Fire (MGBC)

M240B 7.62mm Machine Gun Capabilities

Bodega Bay WTA Map

Captain Swatland addressed the environmental sensitivity of this issue. Local USCG are pushing their headquarters in D.C. for alternative methods to shooting targets – such as training with a simulator. There has been shooting trainings conducted out of the area as well. Establishment of a weapons area off the “Donut Hole” area of Golden Gate was also explored, in order to stay out of the Sanctuaries, but this may not occur and may not be the best alternative either.

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**Questions for Captain Swatland –**

Doreen Gurrola asked for clarification on the noise effects of the practice area

Lisa Etherington asked what the bullets are made of. Captain Swatland: iron derivative, no lead or uranium in bullets.

Chuck Wise pointed out that this firing/training area is right in the center of several traffic zones off Bodega Head

Captain Swatland asked for suggestions of where to move this zone, keeping it close to the same area. Chuck and Lance Morgan pointed to shifting the area north of Mussel Point.

Lisa asked for details of how often shooting occurs and commented on the amount of rounds that are hitting the sea floor, and perhaps affecting Grey Whale feeding areas.

Captain Swatland commented that he would accept recommendations from the SAC and their constituencies.

The group agreed that there should be a formal letter of recommendation printed along with the Bodega Bay WTA Map, to deliver to the constituencies as an informational sheet regarding this training area.

Captain Swatland described the two other training sites in the Bay Area – off Santa Cruz and Monterey. It was pointed out that Homeland Security measures give full authority to USCG and the Department of Defense for these types of exercises, but local USCG would rather do appropriate outreach and keep public the informed.

**Public Comment 11:45**

None

**Management Plan Update and Recording of SAC Member Comments-**

Tom Lambert and Dan Howard

Tom Lambert introduced the Management Plan Review Process and how the Council has shaped the Plan and can affect it for the better with their comments. The closing date for comments will be January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 if more comments develop after the meeting today.

Dan Howard will read through the Management Plan, running through the regulations and strategies in order to collect comments. Dan summarized the process for the MPR from this point forward.

Doreen reviewed comments brought forth at the Bay Area public hearings. Comments included pros and cons for Marine Protected Areas, tow-in surfing areas/use of personal watercraft for this activity, vessel discharge, and support of the invasive species plan; etc..

Tom discussed the Bodega Bay hearing which included comments on jet ski use, concern over development of a quarry operation and sedimentation into the marine environment from this operation; support of Sanctuary boundary expansion; ban of offshore mariculture; work to support healthy coastal communities by working with fishermen.

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support healthy coastal communities by working with fishermen at local ports; acoustic impacts of shipping; plastics debris in Sanctuaries; fishing as a viable livelihood.

Joe Smith summarized the public comments at the Point Reyes hearing – which included same as above, and support of local oyster farming.

Discussion and clarification regarding oyster mariculture, including impacts and leases, in Tomales Bay, ensued.

Dan Howard read through the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and Draft Management Plan for Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Council members submitted comments on proposed regulations and a range of action items including education, research, administration, and cross-cutting issues with Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries. For information on the comments submitted, please contact Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary offices at (415)663-0314.

**Lunch 1:00-1:30**

**Management Plan Update and Recording of SAC Member Comments, continued**

- Tom Lambert, Dan Howard

**Schedule 2007 Meeting Dates – Tom Lambert**

CB SAC meeting dates for the 2007 calendar year were scheduled as follows:

Tuesday March 13th

Thursday June 7<sup>th</sup> – *Retreat*

Wednesday September 12<sup>th</sup>

Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup>

**Goals and Potential Topics for 2007 – Tom Lambert**

Council members discussed possible SAC meeting topics for 2007, and the following were brought forth:

Tom Lambert would like to get back to the job of advising Dan Howard with Sanctuary management, now that the Management Plan process is wrapping up. Tom would also like to work further on SAC constituent outreach.

Joe Smith would like to have more scientific presentations at SAC meetings.

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Lance Morgan would like John Largier, from the Bodega Marine Lab (BML) to present about oceanography of the region.

Carol Keiper would like to have Steven Morgan from BML present.

Dan Howard would like help from the SAC with dispersant use protocol. He will announce this to the SAC when he is ready to set up a discussion about this.

Duffy Ross would like a presentation concerning the NOAA Ocean's Communicators program

**Public Comment Period – 3:00**

No Comments

**Protocols for Development of SAC Resolutions – Tom Lambert**

Tom discussed the need to have enough time for the Council to look at information regarding possible SAC resolutions before passing a resolution. Tom suggested Council members send-in proposed resolutions ahead of a meeting by email for SAC to review, when possible. Carol suggested the Council write-up protocol for passing resolutions. Dan Howard and Tom Lambert agreed to draft this language and present to the Council in 2007.

**Meeting Adjourned 3:20 pm**

**Action Item:**

*Motion*

*Lance Morgan moved to accept 9-26-06 SAC minutes as amended*

*Doreen Gurrola seconds*

*All in favor*



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**Attachments**

Attachment #1

Manager's Report – December 6, 2006

Marine Debris Project – finished first leg of marine debris cruise in October on the new Sanctuary vessel FULMAR, relocated 4 pieces of gear and marked two gill nets with acoustic pingers and two long lines with floats. Second leg of cruise we plan to try different techniques to remove the gear and to survey other areas of the bank for lost gear.

Our cruise was the first official work for the new Sanctuary vessel following the dedication ceremony in Monterey. Still working out a few bugs but the general consensus is that it will be a great platform to work from.

Budget Update – looks like we will be in a continuing resolution until mid-February. This means we will operate with the same budget as last year but our spending is very restricted until we know what our budget will be.

Dispersants Update – were hoping to secure funding to put on a workshop that would look at the effects of dispersants on water column organisms – OSPR did not fund our proposal so I will be looking to form a small working group of our SAC to develop a decision matrix for when we would consider using dispersants.

CBOMP Summary- this year was the second in a row with reduced productivity due to late and weak upwelling. Lack of krill again resulted in reproductive failure of Cassin's Auklets on the Farallon Islands and high mortality. Counts for Cassin's Auklets in our monthly surveys was way down in 2006 and we failed to see a single blue whale this year. Both of these organisms depend heavily on krill for food.

Rikk Kvitek and the habitat mapping lab at California State University Monterey Bay completed their contract and delivered their final products. Data from their multi-beam mapping effort will be very important in directing future research and monitoring efforts at the site. Jennifer Stock is also considering how she can use the information in education units.

Boundary Expansion bill has been introduced by Senator Boxer so we may see some movement with that when the new Congress convenes in Feb.

Education Report- Jenny

#### Attachment #2

Education Report – December 6, 2006

You may recall me talking about an opportunity to put exhibits about Cordell Bank and CA Sanctuaries during a major renovation at the Oakland Museum. We are still trying to acquire funds to do that. We have put requests in the last 3 years and although the project ranked very high, the sanctuary program has not had discretionary funds to put towards exhibits or facilities. The Sanctuary program is awaiting a budget and we will be finding out if or when we will be proceeding in this opportunity.

Ocean Fest is an annual outreach event in SF at GFNMS. This past event we had students and one teacher from last years workshop bring their ROV's to Ocean fest and demonstrate to visitors what ROVs are all about. They happened to be located right next to Deep Ocean and Exploration and Research's real vehicles (ROV and Deepworker submerisble). After receiving follow up surveys after last years workshop, we found over half of the teachers are using the activities they learned at the workshop in their classroom.

Carol Keiper and I are both involved in the Animals in Curriculum Curriculum that focuses on the migratory patterns of animals like Black –footed albatross and we have officially begun the project planning. We will be hosting the first of 3 workshops here in the Bay Area. We will be looking for schools that will have administrative report to implement this new curriculum that of course includes the science standards and evaluation methods.

Past shows of Ocean Currents , my monthly radio show on KWMR, can now be heard/downloaded off our website [cordellbank.noaa.gov](http://cordellbank.noaa.gov). Those who are podcast savvy can subscribe as a podcast, which means every time a new episode is added, the podcast player will ask you if you want to download it. There are descriptions of each show on the website and I am working with a volunteer to create educational content for teachers for each of the shows. The shows can also be found in Itunes, but we are directing folks to

our website, so we can track downloads to evaluate its use. Next show is Dec 18, and I will have Kenny Balcomb on talking about the recent invasion of Humboldt squid in the area.

CA Thank You Ocean campaign is going forward and the next phases of the media campaign are in the works right now. HI is hosting the next workshop to move this element forward. [Thankyouocean.org](http://Thankyouocean.org)